



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*Ellen Blaschinski, Chief, Regulatory Services Branch, 860-509-8171*

### ***Senate Bill 126 - An Act Adding Wood Smoke To The Public Health Nuisance Code And Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces.***

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The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 126.

The Department of Public Health **opposes** Section 1 of this bill, which calls for the specific addition of wood smoke to the Public Health Code as a public nuisance. DPH has concluded (DPH Memorandum of Decision, Docket #080422EH, April 8, 2009), that section 19-13-B2 of the Public Health Code already provides authority to local health departments to declare wood smoke to be a public health nuisance. This section of the public health code gives local health directors broad power to declare any environmental problem in their town a nuisance, if in their opinion it presents a significant health risk. Adding the additional specific items under 19-13-B1 would diminish this authority.

The Department in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health will be meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities of Local Health Directors; guidelines on how to identify a violation and factors to be considered such as opacity, odor, frequency, and duration; training needs and abatement remedies.

Section 2 of this bill bans the use of outdoor wood furnaces between the months of April through October. The agency has been made aware of a number of health complaints from neighbors regarding these outdoor wood furnaces (OWFs). It is likely that particle levels emitted from OWFs can exceed health-based standards established by EPA for periods of time on properties around such units.

The Department looks forward to working with Ct Association Directors of Health, Connecticut Environmental Health Association, and Department of Environmental Protection to discuss roles and responsibilities relative to wood burning furnaces.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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